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known than from the originals. The topics named above are naturally those with which the author has chiefly concerned himself, and it cannot be said that the present volume contributes to general physiological literature anything new. The book is rather a new setting of the brilliant work and suggestive ideas of the author, that have previously enriched physiology, and with them is related the results of others in such wise as to round out the presentation. The lectures are readable and instructive, and they are especially commended to the attention of plant physiologists, who are too apt to pass over literature not strictly pertaining to plants.—C. R. B.

**The problems of life.**—The third part of this book<sup>5</sup> was issued last winter, and extends the author's fundamental hypothesis to the phenomena of fertilization and heredity. To him, if one admits the premises, the difficulties of these phenomena fade away like morning mists. The work does not cite definite observations, nor show, except in the most general way, how the known facts can be correlated by this theory; but it presents a clearly reasoned, logical series of deductions, which impresses the reader at once as too simple to be true. Moreover, one is naturally shy of a theory, which, beginning with an assumption regarding the molecular structure of protoplasm and the nature of assimilation, makes reproduction a necessary and inevitable consequence of these assumptions, while heredity likewise follows as a matter of course from the phenomena of fecundation. We were inclined to welcome the molecular conceptions of the first part,<sup>6</sup> as possibly embodying a fruitful theory, but we cannot follow the author as he widens and heightens his construction upon the acute fundamental assumption. Such inverted pyramids of logic can have no stability.—C. R. B.

**Pfeffer's Physiology.**—The third and last volume of this work was published about the middle of March.<sup>7</sup> It treats at length of the movements of plants, including the mechanical responses to various stimuli; and briefly of the production of heat, light, and electric tensions, and of the sources and transformations of energy. The translation, or rather the interpretation of the original, is of the same satisfactory character as in earlier volumes. As before, the editor has introduced supplementary and critical matter in footnotes; and in an appendix of eight pages he has supplied some important facts not mentioned in the first two volumes, and a summary of the more recent literature, especially that connected with the present volume. Throughout, his critical

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<sup>5</sup> GIGLIO-TOS, ERMANNO, *Les problèmes de la vie. III<sup>e</sup> partie: La fécondation et l'hérédité.* 8vo. pp. viii + 189. Cagliari: The author, at the University. 1905. *fr.* 8.

<sup>6</sup> Cf. BOT. GAZETTE 31:275. 1901.

<sup>7</sup> PFEFFER, W., *The physiology of plants, a treatise upon the metabolism and and sources of energy in plants.* Second fully revised edition; translated and edited by ALFRED J. EWART. Volume III. Imp. 8vo. pp. viii + 451. *figs.* 70. Oxford: The Clarendon Press. 1906. 21s.

care and acumen have enriched the already valuable work of the author, so that English readers are indebted to him for far more than a translation of peculiarly difficult German. To recommend the English form to all libraries and laboratories as a standard work of reference is, at this date, really quite superfluous.—C. R. B.

**British flowering plants.**—Under this title Lord AVEBURY,<sup>8</sup> better known as Sir JOHN LUBBOCK, has brought together a mass of desultory notes on various things connected with a great many plants. The author says that this work is “to describe points of interest in the life-history of our British plants; to explain, as far as possible, the reasons for the structure, form, and color; and to suggest some of the innumerable problems which still remain for solution.” A glossary and an introductory chapter indicate that the book may be used by those with no botanical training; and perhaps it will be chiefly so used. Each species is taken as the occasion for the presentation of all sorts of facts and fancies and questions in reference to it, as though the author had emptied his note book under that head. There is no distinct organization and no adequate index; so that the botanist will simply have to “run on” to things.—J. M. C.

**Spring flora of Ohio.**—Under the title “Spring Flora,” the botanical staff of Ohio State University has issued a manual for beginners and amateurs.<sup>9</sup> It is a revised edition of KELLERMAN’S “Spring Flora of Ohio,” and its range has been extended so as to include Ohio and Indiana and the adjacent states. The time range extends from the opening of the season into the first part of June; and such difficult groups as grasses and sedges are not included. There is also a key to the trees and shrubs based on leaf and twig characters.—J. M. C.

**Flora of Norway.**—AXEL BLYTT’S completed *Handbook of the Norwegian Flora*, including the vascular plants, has been issued under the editorship of OVE DAHL.<sup>10</sup> In reality it has been in preparation since 1861, having been begun by the father, continued by the son, whose name is on the title page, and now finally edited by a third botanist. It is a model of compact and clear printing, excellent arrangement, and good text figures. The sequence is that of Engler and Prantl.—J. M. C.

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<sup>8</sup> AVEBURY, THE RIGHT HON. LORD, Notes on the life history of British flowering plants. 8vo. pp. xxiii + 450. *figs.* 352. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1905. \$5.00.

<sup>9</sup> KELLERMAN, W. A., GLEASON, H. A., and SCHAFFNER, J. H., Spring flora for beginners and amateurs. pp. xiii + 188. Columbus, Ohio: Geo. W. Tooill. 1906. 75 cents.

<sup>10</sup> BLYTT, AXEL, Haandbog i Norges Flora. Efter forfatterens død afsluttet og udgivet ved OVE DAHL. pp. xi + 780. *figs.* 661. Kristiania: Alb. Cammermeyers Forlag. 1906.